**April 12, 2020 John 20:19-23**

***In Locked Rooms***

1. He is ***risen***! He is***risen***indeed!
   1. We often forget the ***confusion*** of that first Easter.
   2. How many of us are still sitting locked in places of ***hopelessness***
   3. The disciples had a reason to be locked in a room, ***afraid***.
2. Our reasons to live in ***fear*** are also valid.
   1. We have been hurt by others or ***circumstances***.
   2. We may stand in ***opposition*** to political powers and religious leaders.
   3. If fears overcome us, we can be ***locked*** ***in***.
3. Jesus doesn’t admonish the ***disciples*** for their lack of faith
   1. In the midst of their fear, he chose to be ***present***.
   2. “***Peace*** be with you”
   3. ***Peace*** is part of what Jesus brought through his death and resurrection.
   4. The resurrection ***emboldens*** the disciples.
4. Jesus ***meets*** us in the midst of our fear, doubt, and confusion too.
   1. Jesus ***meets*** us where we are, waiting for ***us*** to embrace him.
   2. We are called and ***empowered*** by Christ to do great things.
   3. Share a message of ***forgiveness*** with others.
5. We have a ***choice***; do not fear the hardships, know the power of resurrection.
   1. Jesus does not ***reject*** you.
   2. Jesus does not ***give*** ***up*** on you.
   3. Jesus sees you in your ***confusion***.
   4. ***Live*** in the ***hope*** of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Scripture:**

John 20:19-23 NRSV (19)When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (20)After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (21)Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (22)When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (23)If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Psalms 150:1-6 NRSV (1)Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! (2)Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! (3)Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! (4)Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! (5)Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! (6)Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

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1. He is *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ! He is *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* indeed!
   1. We often forget the *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* of that first Easter.
   2. How many of us are still sitting locked in places of *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
   3. The disciples had a reason to be locked in a room, *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.
2. Our reasons to live in *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* are also valid.
   1. We have been hurt by others or *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.
   2. We may stand in *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* to political powers and religious leaders.
   3. If fears overcome us, we can be *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.
3. Jesus doesn’t admonish the *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* for their lack of faith
   1. In the midst of their fear, he chose to be *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.
   2. “*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* be with you”
   3. *\_\_\_\_\_* is part of what Jesus brought through his death and resurrection.
   4. The resurrection *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* the disciples.
4. Jesus *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* us in the midst of our fear, doubt, and confusion too.
   1. Jesus *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* us where we are, waiting for ***us*** to embrace him.
   2. We are called and *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* by Christ to do great things.
   3. Share a message of *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* with others.
5. We have a *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*; do not fear the hardships, know the power of resurrection.
   1. Jesus does not *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* you.
   2. Jesus does not *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* on you.
   3. Jesus sees you in your *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.
   4. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* in the *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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